



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



MARCH 11, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

IMETs Recognized at 2003 Workshop in Boise: I traveled to Boise March 11 to recognize the IMETs for their outstanding performance during the 2002 season. The IMETs and trainees who were dispatched to at least one fire last season were presented with a token of appreciation from Western Region. This is my fourth year visiting this workshop, and I believe, as an agency, we have progressed in many ways to support the fire weather program, freeing up IMETs during the peak leave season and filling in behind at the WFO in their absence. I am pleased with the progress we have made and hope to see even more improvements this year. Congratulations, IMETs and all WFO staff for commitment to fire weather. A special thanks to Scott Birch and our Boise crew, Larry VanBussum and Rusty Billingsley, for their efforts to attain success.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Recent Outreach Activities

WFO Medford Exhibit at Two Major Events: Staff from NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office in Medford, Oregon, recently participated in two major regional outreach activities. They used the Western Region's Severe Weather Display as the backdrop for the NWS booth, displayed a NOAA Weather Radio, and showed various severe weather and tsunami videos during both events. The forecasters received positive feedback regarding the Medford web pages and many people commented about the increased accuracy of the southwestern Oregon and extreme northern California forecasts over the past few years. Here is a summary of the events:

The 7th Annual Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show was held February 14-16 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Complex in Roseburg, Oregon. Total attendance for the show was approximately 12,000. Meteorologist-In-Charge Roger Williams, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jim Reynolds, and Lead Forecaster Ryan Sandler answered questions, provided handouts and met their customers. They displayed a poster which showed the flow through the South Umpqua river at Roseburg as well as other hydrological information.

The 3rd Annual Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show was held February 28 - March 2 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds Complex in Medford, Oregon. MIC Roger Williams, WCM Jim Reynolds, and Journeyman Forecasters Sven Nelaimischkies and

Dan Weygand hosted the NWS booth. Total attendance for the show was approximately 12,000.

WFO Seattle at Northwest Aviation Conference: The Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show was held in Puyallup, Washington, on February 22-23. NWS Forecast Office Seattle staffed a booth again this year, offering NWS products and services with an emphasis on the aviation program. They also used a laptop computer to demonstrate some of their on-line aviation products, highlighting a recently revised “one-stop-shopping” aviation web page link. Approximately 10,000 people attended this year’s trade show event.



WFO Pocatello Journey Forecaster Ken Simosko discusses career options with students at ISU Career Fair

WFO Pocatello at Career Fair: NOAA’s National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pocatello, Idaho, participated in the Career Fair sponsored by Idaho State University on February 26. The semiannual event draws more than 4,000 students and offers opportunities for government agencies as well as private businesses to talk to both graduate and undergraduate students about career opportunities. Five members of the NWS staff, representing management, forecasters, information technology, and administration, volunteered to be in the NOAA exhibit that highlighted various careers in all five line offices of the agency. NWS products and services were featured as well. Materials identified how students can access information in such careers as meteorology, biology, computer science, fisheries, and administration.

WFO Portland at Environmental Information Workshop: NWS Forecast Office in Portland, Oregon, participated in the Oregon Environmental Information Workshop in Vancouver, Washington, March 6. The workshop focused on weather, climate, and air quality in Oregon. NWS gave weather and climate presentations focusing on weather patterns that cause air stagnation and air quality problems. The audience was primarily high school and college teachers, representatives from the State Department of Environmental Quality, and Regional Air Quality Agencies.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week’s statement of the week is a post storm Public Information Statement (PNS) issued by WFO Portland. The PNS lists the watches/warnings/advisories issued, along with a summary of snowfall from the storm in question. Many WR offices have adopted this practice as a method of “validating” NWS products and heighten public awareness as to what can happen during storm events.

March 13, 2003

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Good work Portland and all of the northern tier of WFOs in the region who issued many timely warnings during the recent heavy snow surge!

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORTLAND OR
0220 PM PST FRI MAR 07 2003

EVENT...A WINTER STORM OUTLOOK WAS ISSUED AT 0230 PM PST MON MARCH 3 FOR SIGNIFICANT SNOWFALL IN THE CASCADES WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

...A WINTER STORM WATCH WAS ISSUED 0853 PM PST MON MARCH 3 FOR THE SOUTH WASHINGTON AND NORTH OREGON CASCADES AND THE CASCADES IN LANE COUNTY.

...A WINTER STORM WARNING WAS ISSUED 0751 PM PST TUE MARCH 4 FOR THE SOUTHERN WASHINGTON AND NORTH OREGON CASCADES.

...A WINTER STORM WARNING WAS ISSUED 0950 AM PST WED MARCH 5 FOR THE CASCADES IN LANE COUNTY.

...SNOW AMOUNTS IN INCHES AS OF 200 PM PST FRI MARCH 7 2003...

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FALLEN SINCE MAR 3</u>	<u>PAST 24 HOURS</u>	<u>ON THE GROUND</u>
GOVERNMENT CAMP	44	30	66
SKI BOWL	37	27	71
TIMBERLINE LODGE (ROAD)	57	32	166
TIMBERLINE AREA (SHOP)	49	29	148
WHITE RIVER	34	20 (18 HR TOTAL)	58 (6 AM)
BENNETT PASS	40	20	55
MT HOOD MEADOWS	35	21	100
MT HOOD MEADOWS UPPER	39	29	114
BLUE BOX PASS	25	15	41
WARM SPRINGS JUNCTION	21	17	27
SANTIAM PASS SUMMITT	30	25	54
MT BACHELOR	21	14	89
HOODOO BUTTE	40	18	73
WILLAMETTE PASS	12	4	27

FOR THIS AND OTHER WEATHER INFORMATION...SEE OUR WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/portland/> (This URL is all in lower case).

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HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Climate Service Program

Update on the Core Suite of Products for Webpage Climate Sections: Thank you to everyone who evaluated the prototype webpage containing the core suite of climate products. HCSD is reviewing and evaluating the comments and will then submit them to the Climate Services Steering Committee for final consideration. Implementation of this core suite of products is temporarily on hold. The other regions wanted an opportunity to review WR's proposal and consider this same suite of product for the entire NWS. This will be an agenda topic at the upcoming Regional Climate Services Program Managers' meeting in Silver Spring the first week of April. If the other regions decide they do not want to implement this nationally, WR will proceed with the core suite on a regional level.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

GOES-12 Switch to Operational Status on April 1: GOES-12 is scheduled to replace GOES-8 as the GOES-East operational spacecraft on April 01 at 1815 UTC. There are a few significant differences on GOES-12 as compared to the GOES-8 through GOES-11 satellites. Briefly, the 6.7 micron water vapor channel resolution improves from 8 km to 4 km and 12.0 micron band at 4km is replaced with 13.3 micron band at 8km. The improved resolution of the water vapor channel will be the most noticeable change. The water vapor imagery will now be able to show more detailed structure of mid-level features. Additional information can be found at:
<http://www.osd.noaa.gov/Gvar/gvardownload.htm>

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NOAA Weather Radio Status: The Cougar Mountain NWR (KHB-60) in Seattle, Washington, was relocated in a new facility and began an on-air 20-day test period on March 6. The Browning, Montana, USDA NWR (WNG-533) began a 30-day test period with the Frequency Management of Industry Canada (FMOIC) on February 7.

On February 12, five UHF link transmitters were replaced with narrowband transmitters. Work was preformed by Western Region Headquarters (WRH) and Seattle staff.

The Hanford, California, NWR Electronic Technician (ET) staff replaced two UHF link transmitters with narrowband transmitters on March 6.

On February 19, the Poplar, Montana, USDA NWR frequency was changed to 162.425 in coordination with FMOIC due to frequency interference issues.

The Port Angeles, Washington, NWR (WWG-24) was upgraded on February 12, to a Mastr III along with adding a Remote Off Air Monitoring System (ROAMS). The Belgian

Hill, Montana NWR (WWG-84) is scheduled to be upgraded from the current 100 watt transmitter to a 330 watt transmitter in late spring.

Facilities Projects and Accomplishments: A new Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) installation was completed at WFO Las Vegas on February 28.

During the week of February 24, the base was set and site work was completed for a new wind tower at Bodega Bay, California. The tower is scheduled to be erected the week of March 24.

On February 28, the installation of a storage mezzanine in the garage at WFO Reno was completed.

SOD Program Review: During the week of February 24, Robert Diaz, Pat Fahy, Joe Lacheaz, and Jack Lauretzan visited WFOs Seattle and Portland. A program review of the Electronics Program, Information Technology, and Facilities Support was completed. To date, SOD has completed three Station Program Reviews with eleven more planned to be completed this year. SOD will visit each office on an every other year basis to conduct these Program Reviews.